It has also taken up consignment sales of the handloom products of state handloom agencies.

(iii) As regards the developmental activities, the Corporation has been organising Workshops and Seminars on marketing strategies, quality control, etc. It has also undertaken training of dyers. A National Advertising and Communication Campaign and an Exhibition of Appropriate Technology in the Handloom Sector have also been taken up.

(c) Share capital assistance to the tune of Rs. 4.14 crores have so far been released to the Corporation. Further, share capital/loan assistance will be provided during the VII Five Year Plan. Efforts are being made to provide working capital from commercial banks as Priority Sector Advance in order to enable the Corporation to augment its supplies of raw materials. The activities of the Corporation have recently been classified into commercial and developmental activities and Central Government is providing grant to finance the developmental activities from time to time.

Opening of Regional passport offices in Madhya Pradesh

98. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of being the largest State (area-wise) in the country in Madhya Pradesh only one Regional Passport Office is situated at Bhopal;

(b) whether Government take into account the area of a state while deciding the number of branches of Passport Office to be located in a State;

(c) whether Government will consider locating regional Passport Offices at places like Raipur, Indore, Gwalior, Jabalpur and Rewa; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) For the past few years the Govt. has been following the principals for having one Passport Office in each State unless the number of Passport applications from that State is too small which would not justify expenditure on opening a Passport office in that State.

As per the norms fixed by the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance a Passport Issuing Authority must deal with atleast 3000 passport applications per month. The total number of passport applications received by the Passport Office Bhopal was 1177 on an average per month. Thus, there is no justification for opening a new Passport Office in Madhya Pradesh.

US public policy planning organisation Survey regarding Indo-Pak relations

99. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that research survey has been conducted by the Public Policy Planning Organisation of the United States in connection with Indo-Pak relations;

(b) whether it is a fact that the survey has revealed that Pakistan is likely to attack India in near future; and

(c) whether Government have drawn the attention of Pakistani External Affairs Minister in this regard during the recent talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government are aware of a recent study by